****Sacred Heart Policy on****

****RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****

****Introduction****

Sacred Heart B.N.S. is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and traditional Catholic values.  We provide religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

****Rationale****

This policy seeks to outline in a practical way how our school ethos is manifested and celebrated. This policy also addresses our response to accommodate the enrolment of increased numbers of children of other faiths into the school community.

****Relationship to school ethos****

This school enrols pupils of other faiths or no faith in the school, subject to the enrolment criteria, and respects their beliefs and practices in accordance with the school ethos of inclusivity.

****School Procedures****

Every child is welcome into the school having satisfied enrolment procedures, but the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith. Arrangements can be made within each class to accommodate children who do not take part in the religious education programme provided in Sacred Heart BNS.

The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Grow in Love programme approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools.  The programme is taught to each class.  All the major Catholic feasts are celebrated.

* Christmas – tree and cribs, Christmas Stories, Carol services, visit to local nursing

 homes to entertain patients.

* Feast of St. Brigid – making traditional crosses.
* Feast of St. Patrick – depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick’s Day Cards
* Lent – Symbols of repentance, visit to local church to receive ashes.
* Easter – Easter cards, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and

 workbooks.

* 2nd and 6th classes attend 10 a.m. mass throughout their school year in preparation for the reception of sacraments.
* Celebration of the opening and closing of the school year with school masses.

****Liturgical Celebrations****

The school celebrates the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.  Children receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in Our Mother of Divine Grace Church.  Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school. Alternative supervision is provided for children not participating in this preparation.

****Teacher input****

In this school the following areas are covered:

* In-service on delivering the Grow in Love programme.
* Study of Grow in Love Teachers' Guides.
* Prayer Services – Advent, Catholic Schools Week, Lent, Sixth Class Graduation Ceremony
* Nativity plays.
* Carol Service.
* Sacred Space in foyer and in every classroom
* Grandparents Day (Junior Infant, 2nd and 6th classes)
* Morning and home time prayers, grace before and after meals, opening and closing prayers at assembly

****Success Criteria****

* An acknowledged sense of God, Faith, prayer and worship within the school community.
* Respect for all with in the school community.
* Parental interest.
* Recognisable links between home, school and parish.
* An outward-looking care for those less fortunate in society (Fundraising for Trócaire, other charities etc)

****Roles and Responsibilities****

**Staff:**

Deliver the Grow in Love programme.

Cooperate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers.

Avail of In-Service support.

Actively support the ethos of the school.

**Parents:**

Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework.

****Principal:****

Facilitates supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To be reviewed in September 2026